United Nations

A/71/654

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 December 2016
English
Original: Russian

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 31
Prevention of armed conflict

Letter dated 29 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO), entitled "Solidarity of peoples for peace and security, strengthened sovereignty and the prevention of interference in the internal affairs of other States", adopted at the Tenth Congress of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization, held in Rabat, Morocco, on 20 October 2016 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31.

(*Signed*) V. **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 29 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO), entitled "Solidarity of peoples for peace and security, strengthened sovereignty and the prevention of interference in the internal affairs of other States"

We, the representatives of the national committees of Afro-Asian peoples' solidarity, gathered at the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) Tenth Congress in Rabat, Morocco, note with great concern the growing negative developments in certain regions and throughout the world.

Challenges and threats are emerging that affect the vital interests of the countries and peoples of Asia and Africa.

This particularly applies to the sovereignty of African and Asian States and their rights to develop independently and determine their own development paths.

The achievement of independence by once-colonized and dependent Asian and African countries was one of the brightest and most positive events of the twentieth century.

Unfortunately, today we again see a real risk of losing those historic gains.

African and Asian States are facing attempts by some countries with more powerful militaries to issue diktats, even going so far as to include the threat or use of force.

An external intervention carried out in Iraq under a false pretext had grave repercussions, leading to the death of many thousands of people.

A violent foreign-backed coup in Libya plunged that country into a fratricidal war.

Militias representing international terrorist organizations operate today in Syria with broad external support. They have seized a large part of Syria, which has become a real threat to its territorial integrity and very existence as a State.

At the same time, the United States of America and other Western countries are conducting military operations in Syria without the consent of that country's legitimate Government.

We call on the United States of America and its allies in the international coalition to respect the sovereignty of independent Syria, which has been a member of the United Nations since 1945. We believe that the United States of America, pursuant to its commitments as a member of the Security Council, should concentrate its efforts on the real fight against terrorism — the main threat to peace and security in today's world.

We strongly condemn all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomsoever committed, in all their forms and manifestations.

This situation requires the combined efforts of the international community and all those who are able and willing to raise their voices against the threat of war or encroachment on the sovereignty and independence of peoples.

We are convinced that the current extremely alarming developments make it necessary to more fully utilize the potential of the African and Asian countries' solidarity movement and to revitalize the work of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization.

The Organization's Tenth Congress calls for the launch of a broad international campaign in order to affirm the rights of all States, large and small, to independent development, State sovereignty and protection of their national interests.

We call on all civic organizations and national parliaments to influence the Governments of their countries to provide the fullest possible financial and material assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons from Syria and other countries of the region.

The Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization, an organization with consultative status in a number of United Nations specialized agencies, calls for a public forum to be held, under United Nations auspices, to develop a joint programme to counter the threat of terrorism, strengthen international security and prevent interference in the internal affairs of independent States.